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Thompson is a student primarily of economics. It is true that the sections of his book which bear upon this field are especially strong, but they have not been written at the expense of the political chapters; on the contrary, the balance is remarkably sane.

The organization is another feature that will appeal especially to teachers. Many instructors are often perplexed by the problem of how best to present material in logical order both as to time and subject matter. It not infrequently happens that the result is confusing to the pupil in that the teacher either fails to follow a given subject through a time sequence sufficiently long to give the student an insight into cause and effect relations, or he fails to coördinate and interrelate the various factors of a given period. Mr. Thompson has made a genuine contribution in his handling of this difficulty. The text is divided into three major divisions, in chronological order. The title of each indicates the general character of the particular period. Each of these parts is subdivided into chapters which carry the discussion of definite subjects through time periods sufficiently long to make clear the continuity of the events and conditions described.

The citations of supplementary readings at the close of each chapter add considerably to the value of the work. These lists do not contain so large a number of references as to be confusing and most of those given are likely to be found even in very modest libraries. The physical make-up of the book is dignified and pleasing. The illustrations are unusual; they are abundant in number and rich in interest as well as in educative value. There are also many diagrams, statistical maps and tables, and graphs, so arranged as to present with clarity and vividness material which would otherwise require many paragraphs of text.

We predict for the book an enthusiastic reception and a career of widespread usefulness.

RUSSELL G. BOOTH

*The plain story of American history.* By John Spencer Bassett, Ph.D., Sydenham Clark Parsons professor of American history, Smith college. (New York: The Macmillan company, 1916. 545 p. \$1.00)

This book does not depart materially from the conventional textbook of the past twenty-five years in the selection of its topics, in the proportion of space given to various periods, in the point of view, or in the organization of the material. The questions at the end of the chapters may be of some value, but the "suggested topics" do not seem to be particularly suggestive. The total absence of all references for collateral reading is rather surprising. And so the justification for this, another textbook, must be found in some other direction. Probably it

is indicated by the title, *A plain story*. By an easy, flowing narrative, by the clear presentation of the story of events without a complexity of details, and by avoiding too condensed a style the author has succeeded in making a book much more attractive than the ordinary.

The pictures are not particularly numerous, but they are for the most part really illustrative. Their value is frequently increased by attendant description. A few are not very satisfactory, however. For instance, the picture of the first McCormick reaper (p. 423) presents several curious situations.

The maps might be improved. There are too many inaccuracies in some of them. There are too many battle plans for such a book. Such a map as that between pages 476 and 477 is very common in histories, but it is worse than useless. The insets tell almost nothing and are confusing. Two separate double page maps are the best that can show the territorial development of the United States at all adequately.

The merits of the book, however, tend to counterbalance its shortcomings and imperfections and we regard it as well worth while.

EDWARD CARLTON PAGE

*Household manufactures in the United States, 1640-1860.* A study in industrial history. By Rolla Milton Tryon, assistant professor of the teaching of history, university of Chicago. (Chicago: University of Chicago press, 1917. 413 p. \$2.00 net)

This book aims "to portray the system of household manufacturing as it existed up to 1860 in its relation to the industrial life and prosperity of the nation as a whole." It is suggested that it may be used as an adjunct to history courses from elementary schools to colleges and to give an historical background to domestic science and household arts teachers. The term "household manufactures" is defined as comprising "all those articles now made almost wholly in shop or factory which were formerly made in the home and on the plantation by members of the family or plantation household from raw material produced largely on the farm where the manufacturing was done" and excluding products of handicraftsmen, work at home supplementary to factory work, work on outside materials, articles made on plantations primarily for sale, and things still largely made in homes, such as bread and jellies. The importance of household manufactures in helping to win the revolutionary war is emphasized and the social and moral results of the work in the homes are traced. Next the author discusses briefly the effects on household manufactures in colonial times of the English colonial policy, local legislative encouragement, and economic and political conditions such as crops, transportation, and the stamp act. Then the increase or